

Economic Development & Improvement Commission
Regular Meeting – Thursday June 11, 2009 – 12:00 Noon
Town Manager's Conference Room, First Floor, Town Hall

MINUTES

1. Call To Order – Chairman Greenblatt called the meeting to order 12:04 p.m.
2. Attendance and Quorum (6 members required)

Members in attendance: Chair Howard Greenblatt, Betty Rosania, Betty Standish, Doug Sacks, Dorcas McHugh, Bill Knapp, Joan Hughes, John Adamian, Ken Rizzio, Rick Willard, Rene Ortega, Jay Amoruso, Jonah Evenson and Chris Lyons.

Members absent: Brian Silver.

Also in attendance: Bonnie Therrien – Town Manager; Phil Knecht – Planning and Zoning Commission Liaison; Peter Gillespie – Economic Development Manager/Town Planner and Denise Bradley – Assistant Planner.

3. Old Business

- a. Farmer's Market – Howard Greenblatt noted that Doug Sacks and Jenna DeLay have done a remarkable job organizing and implementing the events. Doug Sacks commented that the first 2 events were successful despite the weather. He then asked for the EDIC members to volunteer to help setup and breakdown the event. Denise Bradley noted that she would compile and distribute a sign-up sheet.
- b. Business Visitation Program – Peter Gillespie noted that not many completed forms had been returned and that additional businesses have been added to the list. He added that he would re-distribute the visitation sign-up sheet.
- c. Shop Local – Peter Gillespie reported that he attended the June Chamber meeting and that he will meet with Jeanne Kelly and Maureen Kennedy on the 29th or 30th to discuss how the Chamber could get involved.
- d. Wayfinding Signage Status Report – Peter Gillespie reported that there were 13 original responses to the RFP ranging in price. The field was narrowed to 4 and interviews will take place in early July.

4. New Business

- a. Façade Improvement Application – 322 Silas Deane Highway – Ken Rizzio detailed the applicant's façade loan request totaling \$34,675. The prospective owner, John Porriello, is the owner of a business Lifeline Financial that proposes to renovate the interior and exterior of the property to accommodate the relocation of his business from Hartford. The Wethersfield Design Review Advisory Committee has

reviewed this request and voted to support the funding. The scope for the project includes \$51,600 in interior improvements and \$76,550 in exterior improvements for a total of \$128,150. The Finance Committee met last week and recommended that the Commission grant the request except for the work associated with a solar water heater and site plan/survey. The total costs for the exterior improvements excluding the above are estimated at \$69,350. 50% of these costs would total \$34,675. The full scope of the exterior improvements include siding, site excavation and paving for a parking lot, windows, entry and screen doors, landscaping, chimney demolition, exterior lighting, line painting and handicapped parking, front entry repairs, rear stairs and signage. A discussion ensued regarding whether the solar water heater and parking area improvements should be covered. Bill Knapp made a motion to commit funding 50% of the project and to reserve the right to review individual line items. Chris Lyons seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

b. Town Calendar and Business Directory – Bonnie Therrien reported that she and Peter Gillespie met with the Chamber of Commerce to discuss this matter and noted that they are interested in participating. A meeting to discuss this item further will take place at the end of the month.

c. Façade Improvement Loan – Pelton's Home Health Care Status – Peter Gillespie reported that a letter had been sent requesting a status update of the proposed project. It was indicated that the scope of work was being revised and that the changes would go before the Design Review Advisory Committee on 7/8.

5. Reports - Bill Knapp made a motion to recommend to the Town Council that they consider replenishing the open space fund by approving a new bond. A brief discussion ensued, Joan Hughes seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Town Manager's Report – Bonnie Therrien reported on the following:

- Sold bonds at 3.8%
- Kept bond rating AA
- The new Town Manager, Jeff Bridges, will start 8/1.

Town Council Liaison's Report – No report was given.

Planning & Zoning Commission Liaison's Report – Phil Knecht reported on the highlights of the May 19th PZC meeting.

Tourism Commission Liaison's Report – The election of officers will be held in June and AAA Journey's Magazine will be visiting Wethersfield on June 18th – 19th.

Redevelopment Agency Liaison Report – Peter Gillespie reported that the owner had received a new proposal for the use of the property.

Chamber of Commerce Liaison's Report – Rick Willard reported that the Chamber has a hired Ellyn Laramie part-time Monday-Friday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. He noted that there will be a business after hours on June 25th and a ribbon cutting for the new Chamber office at the Keeney on July 15th at 5:30 p.m.

Director of Planning and Economic Development's Report – Peter Gillespie reported on the highlights of the Monthly Economic Development Report.

6. Chairman's Report – Chairman Greenblatt congratulated Joan Hughes for Antiques on Main making the CT Best List. He also noted that many other town businesses were recognized.
7. Sub-Committee Reports - Marketing and Communications – Nothing additional to report.
Financial Strategies – Ken Rizzio discussed the highlights of the 6/2 mtg.
8. Minutes - May 14, 2009 Meeting – John Adamian made a motion to approve the minutes. Joan Hughes seconded the motion and all voted in favor.
9. Next Meeting – July 9, 2009
10. Correspondence
 - a. Monthly Report
 - b. Pelton's
 - c. 322 Silas Deane Highway
11. Adjournment – Betty Rosania made a motion to adjourn at 1:28. Ken Rizzio seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Bradley, Assistant Planner